March 18, 2026

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

Today we are sharing the following updates:

- State Board rulemaking on PWR Sustain Funding and ERR Program in April
- CDE Budget Requests to Reconsider, AKA "Comebacks" to the JBC
- Update on Joint Budget Committee Staff Comebacks, Including TREP vote

State Board rulemaking on PWR Sustain Funding and ERR Program in April
During its April 8-9 meeting, the State Board will hold rulemaking hearings on the following:

- The Administration of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness **Sustain** Funding (1 CCR 301-117). The creation of these rules is tied to Senate Bill 25-315, which set up a new way to fund college and career readiness programs, including money to keep existing programs going. Beginning in the 2026-27 budget year, CDE shall provide funds to local education providers for student "Big Three" outcomes: earned 12 college credits; earned an industry-recognized credential; participated in a quality work-based learning experience.
- The Educator Recruitment and Retention (ERR) Program (1 CCR 301-113). Based on stakeholder feedback, the proposal would increase the number of people who receive financial assistance by lowering the maximum award from $10,000 to $7,500.

For the April hearings, you can:

- Submit written comments through the board's online feedback form, preferably by Wednesday, April 1.
- Testify during the hearing — either in person or remotely — by signing up between noon on Wednesday, April 1, and noon on Tuesday, April 7.

CDE Budget Requests for Reconsideration, AKA "Comebacks" to the JBC
Earlier today, we presented the CDE budget requests for reconsideration, also known as "comebacks," to the JBC for further consideration. This is a link to our "comeback" packet which includes information on BEST Indirect costs, the School Counseling Corps Grant, School Health Professionals, the Local Accountability Grant Program, and a request to roll forward funding to support the RFI that the JBC initiated request for information on online schools.

The Governor's Office of State Planning and Budget also presented "comebacks" today. This link to the OSPB comebacks includes two items related to CDE that begin on page nine, you will also see an item for the Colorado Department of Higher Education related to rural teacher retention and recruitment on page seven.

Update on Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Staff "Comebacks," including TREP vote

JBC staff gave their presentations on budget reconsiderations on March 17. This JBC Staff document includes information on education starting on page nine; you can listen to the entire the recording here. Of note, there is a conversation about TREP that starts at approximately 10:50:40. The Joint Budget Committee voted to limit the program in 2026-27 only to students that were enrolled in their fifth year 2025-26. The program will then end at the close of 2026-27. For the 2026-27 program year, the per pupil rate for students participating in TREP for their sixth year will be $7,140.

Warm Regards,

Susana Córdova